2/18/78

Dear George, Luchese

The Balkey affidavit and an answering one did not reach me until today so I was not able to send them to you earlier. Not until Tuesday now, probably.

Balkey above may be better that reality.

I read the Blakey affidavit in haste and in shock. I think there is a hell of a story in his being judge, jury and defense counsel and in all roles having overt contempt for the First Amendment, and in his being in the case at all.

I was fascinated that he refers to himself as a westerner and that while supposedly professing high above Cayuga's waters was actually in the sunny southland when he executed this.

The professor gets around.

I hope someone gets around to learning why a suppsoed exposer of organized crime provides an affidavit for the Dalitzes of the world - under any circumstances.

Blakey is also ridiculous, not only an authoritarian.

Where he prates about gangland figures not being known as they are exeferred to in the press. Nuts.

I'm no expert on the mafia and do not write about it and do not believe it had any JFK assassination involvement, as you know.

However - I did know one of Balkey's supposedly horrible examples. I knew him socially and in Washington only. I knew him by reputation in conversations with a number of others who knew him, including a Catholic priest.

It was years after I last saw him that I learned that Tommy Brown's right name was Luchese.

I also did not know how high he was in the mob. I did know he was in it. I also knew, from personal observation, that outside mob activities he was a quiet, very soft-spoken and unfailingly polite man.

Even in the field of his supposed expertise Blakey is little more than a bullshitter.

Outside his claimed expertise, where he pretends one he lakks, he is outrageous. He decides what is "responsible" writing, what is a suitable publication, things like these, and unless one meetsk his standards there is no First Amendment.

I am not an admirer of Jeff Gerth, who I've never spoken to, or of Guccione or of Penthouse, where my one experience was a very bad one.

But when the First Amendment is divisible by the Blakeys of the world we are in bad shape.

Makes me wonder how Stokes latched onto him. And why.

When you have read these please mail them to Jim Lesar.

The [illegible] the Post has missed a story in ignoring the Assassin's/Blakey Report of 1/25. The revo[illegible] which I told you some time ago is taking form.

I don't know if he [illegible]ld talk to you but I understand Fenton has made complaints to others.

Now if I had influential friends on Capitol Hill I'd be asking one of them to ask Stokes and perhaps other Members what tests they have had completed. They did have the largest of appropriations with which to pay for them and they returned much money.

From the work I've already done and the evidence I've produced subject to cross-examination and rebuttal it is inevitable that ballistics examinations of the fatal slug in the King case and comparison with test firings from the Ray rifle establish that it did not fire the fatal shot. Even if I've established this in open court- Paul Valentine was there - in this form I think it and the Aassassins committee sitting on it are news.

Best,